

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A non-asbestos-based friction material comprising

a fibrous base (A),

binder (B) and

filler (C)

as the major ingredients,

wherein the filler (C) is incorporated with 1 to 10% of abrasive particles of silicon carbide having an average size of 0.5 to 10 μ m and 4 to 20% of unvulcanized non-self-vulcanizing rubber which is not crosslinked, all percentages by volume based on the whole friction material, and

wherein said non-asbestos-based friction material comprises 0% of a crosslinking agent for rubber.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) The non-asbestos-based friction material according to Claim 1, wherein said unvulcanized non-self-vulcanizing rubber is at least of one selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, isoprene rubber (IR), nitrile/butadiene rubber (NBR), styrene/butadiene rubber (SBR), butadiene rubber (BR), chloroprene rubber (CR), butyl rubber

(IIR), ethylene/propylene rubber (EPM or EPDM), urethane rubber, silicone rubber, fluorine rubber and acrylic rubber.

5. (Current amended) The non-asbestos-based friction material according to Claim 4, wherein said unvulcanized non-self-vulcanizing rubber is at least of one selected from the group consisting of nitrile/butadiene rubber (NBR) and styrene/butadiene rubber (SBR).

6. (Previously Presented) The non-asbestos-based friction material according to Claim 1, wherein said filler (C) is incorporated with powdered aluminum and/or its alloy at 0.1 to 30% by volume

7. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the counter surface attack and wear resistance of a non-asbestos-based friction material for rotors and brake drums of aluminum alloy, produced by forming and curing a non-asbestos-based friction material composition comprising a fibrous base (A), binder (B) and filler (C) as the major ingredients,

said method comprising incorporating said filler (C) with 1 to 10% of abrasive particles of silicon carbide having an average size of 0.5 to 10 μ m, and 4 to 20% of unvulcanized non-self-vulcanizing rubber which is not crosslinked, all percentages by volume based on the whole friction material,

wherein said non-asbestos-based friction material comprises 0% of a crosslinking agent for rubber.